

the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. BURTON) as angry as he was today, and he said that he is going to told hearings until the Department of Justice has the decency to come forward and do what they can to correct this horrible miscarriage of justice.

I remember reading a cover story in *Forbes* magazine, certainly a very conservative magazine, in 1993 in which they reported that the Department of Justice had more than quadrupled its budget since 1980, and that there were U.S. attorneys falling all over themselves trying to find cases to prosecute. The article discussed how Federal prosecutors were cherry-picking local cases, taking the best or easiest cases away from local prosecutors so they could have something to do.

This quadrupling of the budget and size of the Department of Justice was being done, even though 94 percent of all crimes were being handled and prosecuted by local and State law enforcement personnel and prosecutors. Even though their work was not going up, their budget and number of employees was.

This article in *Forbes* said too often in Federal law enforcement the name of the game is publicity, not a reduction in the amount of crime. The article in *Forbes* said that the Department of Justice was proving that Parkinson's law of bureaucracy was true, that work expands so as to fill the time available for its completion. As the real or imagined work expands, the bureaucrats ask for more bureaucrats to do it.

Since then, we have expanded the Department of Justice even more. Now here we are giving them more power. Last week Joseph Califano, a former top assistant to President Johnson and a former Secretary of Health and Human Services under President Carter, wrote in *The Washington Post* last week that in all of our concerns about terrorism, we "are missing an even more troubling danger, the extraordinary increase in Federal police personnel and power."

Mr. Speaker, for the FBI to keep a man in prison for 30 years for a crime that they knew he did not commit, that should be criminal in and of itself. I described it at this hearing as saying that the arrogance of the Federal bureaucracy seems to grow with each passing year. The gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. DELAHUNT) said I was mild in describing things in that way. It seems that we now have a government of, by and for the bureaucrats instead of one that is of, by and for the people.

I salute the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. BURTON) and commend him for continuing to try to call attention to the miscarriage of justice in the Joseph Salvati case, and to say if we keep expanding the Department of Justice and the FBI, then the abuse of the Amer-

ican people is going to continue to grow, and we are going to have much of our freedom taken away from us, and the American people are going to have problems that they never dreamed of. We need to bring these people under some type of control because they are certainly out of control at this time.

ACHIEVEMENTS OF THE FIRST SESSION OF THE 107TH CONGRESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2001, the gentlewoman from New Mexico (Mrs. WILSON) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

Mrs. WILSON. Mr. Speaker, during the next hour, I want to talk about some of the wonderful things that this House has achieved in this first session of the 107th Congress; but in my view, probably one of the most important things we have achieved, we finished today here on the floor of the House, and that is the President's education bill.

Going back almost 2 years ago before the last Presidential election, and before even the primaries were finished, I was looking at the people who were putting themselves forward as potential candidates in the Republican Party, which is my party.

There was a governor from neighboring State of Texas, which being a New Mexican, is sometimes a disqualification in itself, who seemed to be saying some things that I liked to hear. Not only just saying them, but obviously deeply believing them and passionate about them.

George W. Bush was talking about no child should be left behind. There was a commitment that he made in his State of Texas, and it was not just some kind of a campaign slogan, it was something that he passionately believed, that there was a subtle bigotry of low expectations, and that, in itself, condemned children to a life of underachievement. He believed it was possible for a public school system to reform itself and to commit itself to excellence, and that every child is entitled to a great education, and that education is the next civil right.

I listened to him for several months and I decided that I liked this guy, and that I was going to back him as my preferred choice as President of the United States. After he was elected, both in his inaugural address on the steps of the west front of this Capitol and in this body in this room, when he made his first State of the Union speech, he asked us as Members of Congress to join him to ensure that no child is left behind, to reform the Federal laws on education, to make a commitment to reading, not just in the schools where all of us who are middle class have moved to, but to the schools that maybe all of us do not want our children to go to.

I believe that every parent wants a great school in their neighborhood that their kids can walk to. But even more as a community and as a society, we need to have a great school system so that a kid who gets himself up for breakfast and gets his little brother and sister up and makes their lunches and gets them out the door and walks with them to school, those are the kids that this education bill we passed is for. For the kids whose parents are not there and do not care, but that kid who still has a dream, that in America he is part of the American dream.

The bill that we passed today is a landmark piece of legislation, something that required work in both bodies and on both sides of the aisle. It is the most important Federal education bill that we have passed in 20 years. We would not have done it without the leadership of the President of the United States.

Why does it matter? Why should we care so much about education? I represent Albuquerque, New Mexico. A third of our kids in Albuquerque do not graduate from high school. For our parents and certainly for our grandparents, that was probably okay because there were still jobs that somebody could get and be able to support a family that you could do without a high school education. But in the 21st century, those jobs do not exist anymore. What was good enough for our parents and grandparents is not good enough for our children. Every child has to graduate from high school being able to read and write and work together and hold a good job. That is what this bill is about.

The No Child Left Behind Act of 2001 significantly increases Federal aid to education. Last year we had about \$18 billion in the budget for Federal aid to education, mostly to schools that serve poor communities and for special ed. The bill that we just passed authorizes \$26.5 billion in the next year for Federal aid to education. That is almost a 40 percent increase. In the last 5 years, we have close to doubled Federal aid to education. But this also includes the elements of reform, which I think will help get those dollars to the classroom where they can matter in the lives of children.

This new legislation requires annual testing in reading and mathematics for every child from grades 3-8. Some States, like New Mexico, have already moved toward annual testing and accountability for results. But if we let kids fall through the cracks, if we move them on from one grade to another grade without demanding and giving them an opportunity to master the subject matter in first grade, they are not going to make it in fourth grade.

Before I was elected to Congress, I was the cabinet secretary in the State of New Mexico for children. We had the

delinquent children, the abused and neglected children, the children that were mentally ill, early childhood education. We had all of the children that nobody wanted.

When I looked at the kids that we had in our juvenile justice system, on average they were 16 years old. At that point in their lives when they first came to our juvenile prisons, they had, on average, nine prior felonies. It was very rare to have one of those kids who could read at grade level. It was very rare to see a father in their life. Very often there was drug and alcohol abuse in the family.

But the number one indicator that a kid is going to be in trouble as a teenager is their third grade reading score. Education is the way up and out for all kinds of kids. Poor kids, kids that come from broken homes, kids with fathers who are not there or who come home drunk. The public school system and the ability to read is the ticket to a dream. This Federal legislation emphasizes the importance of reading, particularly kindergarten, first, second and third grade. We must make sure that children are able to read by the third grade.

□ 1615

This bill requires all students to be proficient at reading and math within the next 12 years. We do not just set a lofty goal, we set a goal, we provide resources, we provide the tools to achieve that goal, and then there will be accountability for results.

It also requires that we narrow the gap between the rich kids and the poor kids, between the Anglo kids and the minority kids. The truth is since we started the title I program to help schools that are in neighborhoods that do not have as much money to put in from the outside, we started that Federal program and in some areas, the gap between rich and poor, Anglo and minority, has widened rather than narrowed. The whole purpose of Federal aid to education for poor schools is so we can narrow the gap, not so that it can be widened. We must narrow that gap.

There is \$1 billion a year in this bill for the next 5 years to improve reading, three times as much as this year, with a goal of making sure every child can read by the third grade.

This bill also consolidates programs. There are wonderful ideas that legislators and the administration comes up with over the years and often those are put into law or into program documents, and you end up with small pots of money and 20,000 school districts across the country with grant writers and administrators chasing after a little piece of those pots of funds. As a result, we have all of these programs that take so much to administer and compete and award that 65 cents on the dollar even gets to the school district level, let alone down to the classroom.

We needed to consolidate those programs and get the money down to the local level, to give some flexibility to local school districts and principals so that you do not say, well, we have got this pot of money and you can use it for middle school math and science instruction and another pot of money that you can use for software for elementary schools; but what we really need is to send some money back for continuing education in how to teach reading in a particular school. We do not have any money for that even though that is the need. We have got to give some flexibility to move funds around at the local level, because the challenges that we face in Estancia, New Mexico, are not the same challenges we face on Long Island, New York. Let us give some flexibility to local school districts, to parents and teachers and principals; and then let us look at results. Let us let America surprise us by their ingenuity.

It is a wonderful bill. It took a great deal of work and bipartisan work and bicameral work. But we have achieved it. I hope that before Christmas it will be on the desk of the President of the United States and we can begin both to celebrate it and to implement it. But we also have much more work to do.

I want to talk for a little bit about the state of the economy and jobs. In November, consumer confidence fell, plummeted really, for the fifth consecutive month. In June, July, and August when we passed the first stimulus bill, we were all hoping and we thought it was quite likely that the recession that we were on the cusp of would have a soft landing, that if it turned into a recession at all, it would be very shallow and very short. September 11 changed all that. When we saw those planes crash into the towers in New York and we saw the plane crash in Pennsylvania and here in Washington, D.C., we saw and felt a shudder through the American economy. It was not only travel and tourism that were hurt, it was consumer confidence that was hurt. We need to pass another economic stimulus bill. The President called for it in October and the House of Representatives responded.

Our economic stimulus bill in the House is not perfect. There are things about it I did not like as an individual legislator. There is almost no bill here that everybody can say, By gosh, that's something that I can support a hundred percent. There's not a word that I would change. It is not the nature of this body.

But we moved it forward. We moved the process along for a good reason. Since September 11, 700,000 Americans have lost their jobs. We have 700,000 families who are worried about where the next paycheck is coming from. Unemployment has spiked, particularly on the east coast, in the New York and down to the mid-Atlantic region. All of

those families are worried about their health insurance. What happens if they do not get another job before that COBRA runs out? What happens if the unemployment benefits run out? What happens if we do not get back to growing jobs in this country? Those families are hurting. We need to help them. We have passed an economic stimulus bill in the House. I think we may end up having to pass another one next week without any additional action because things have not moved forward.

What do we want to see in an economic stimulus bill? Certainly first and foremost, we need to be able to extend health care benefits and unemployment benefits so that people who have lost their jobs due to the slowdown in the economy can make it through. All of us know neighbors who are worried about losing their job sometime this year and all of us are willing to say, "Look, we're going to help you over the hump. We're going to make sure that this awful time for you is not made worse because you can't feed your family or that you lost your health insurance." So we must have health care coverage and unemployment insurance extenders in any economic stimulus bill.

The second thing we are going to need to do is to restore confidence. We are in the Christmas season. About two-thirds of the American economy is consumer spending. There are retail outlets and companies where half of their sales are in the Christmas period. We need to restore confidence in our consumers so that we do not have a further collapse in retail sales. We have got to restore confidence in consumers, and we have to restore confidence in the markets. If you talk to anybody around town about their retirement plans, most Americans now have 401(k)s or IRAs or pension plans. We are now investors in the stock market. One hundred million Americans own stocks, mostly in IRAs and 401(k)s, pension plans through work or Thrift Savings accounts. All of us have seen the value of our retirement savings go way down because of the economic slowdown. We have got to restore confidence in the stock market that our economy is back and turned around. We have to pass an economic stimulus bill that does that.

The third thing our economic stimulus bill has to do is to create capital to create jobs. Most of our jobs created in this country are created by small business. That is where the real job growth is. That means we have to do things like accelerate depreciation. I was a small business owner for 3 or 4 years before I went into State government. One of the things that was amazing to me is that when I did my books at the end of the year on what my profit was and my loss and how much corporate tax I had to pay, if I bought new computers as I did one year for the

whole office, the whole company, new computers, upgrade everything, all at one time, at that time I could only say that I spent \$10,000 that year on what they call section 179. So even though I had to pay as a small businessperson 20 or \$30,000 out of our bank account to buy the things, as far as telling the government what I owed on taxes, I could only say it was \$10,000. That did not seem right, that did not seem fair, and it certainly discouraged me the next time from getting \$35,000 worth of computers at one time. Certainly one of the things we need to do for small business is to raise those limits so that a small business looking at buying equipment, going and doing some construction, expanding their computer setup, can do so, and that will stimulate our economy.

Mr. Speaker, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. WELLER) has joined me, who is a member of the Committee on Ways and Means and is someone who has worked very, very hard on economic stimulus and particularly looking at small business and what can we do to get back to growing jobs in this economy.

Mr. WELLER. I want to thank the gentlewoman from New Mexico for yielding and also commend her for her leadership, particularly in technology and research, which is so important to the future of the economy of our country.

Our country has a great challenge before us. Obviously, we are working to win this war against terrorism as a result of the terrorist attack, this horrible attack on our country on September 11; but also a key part of our effort in the war on terrorism is to address the economic impact of the terrorist act on September 11.

President Bush inherited a weakening economy. Economists point out it was in the spring and summer of 2000 that the economy began to turn. When he was sworn in as President in January of this year, the economy was already starting to weaken. Unfortunately, there was a psychological impact of September 11, a terrible day when our Nation was attacked by terrorists on our own soil.

Of course, as a result of that, many things happened. One of those is there was a psychological impact on our economy. Business decision-makers and consumers who had previously made decisions to move forward on investments and purchases stepped back from those investments and decisions to spend money. Of course, now we have seen the result. Thousands if not tens of thousands of residents of the State of Illinois where I live as well as New Mexico and all across our country have lost their jobs as a result of the downturn in our economy. In fact, today there are hundreds of steelworkers in the south suburbs that I represent that are here in town ex-

pressing their concern and calling on the Congress and the President to work together to find a way to get this economy moving again.

I want to point out that the House has been doing its job. Seven weeks ago, the House of Representatives passed legislation to revitalize this economy, the Economic Security and Recovery Act, legislation designed to encourage investment by business decision-makers, to create capital for investment as well as to reward investment and the creation of jobs and also to put more money in the pocketbooks of consumers to spend. I would note that some of the key provisions of the legislation that we passed and sent to the Senate obtained strong bipartisan support here in the House. I have been very, very disappointed in the other body and particularly in the leadership of the other body and their failure to move forward on economic security and economic stimulus.

I particularly want to point to one of the provisions in the legislation that the gentlewoman from New Mexico and I have been working together on, as have many other Members of this House.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. PLATTS). The Chair will remind Members that it is not in order in debate to characterize Senate action or inaction. This prohibition includes debate that specifically urges the Senate to take certain action.

The Chair would ask the gentleman to be conscious of that.

Mr. WELLER. I certainly will, Mr. Speaker.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman may proceed.

Mr. WELLER. That is, legislation to draw attention to the expensing provision that is in the Economic Security and Recovery Act of 2001. When you think about it, we are looking for ways to encourage investment and the creation of jobs. If we can encourage an employer or a business to invest in a personal computer or hardware, a pickup truck, a car, we have to remember that there are American workers who produce those products. So if we encourage business to buy them, there is a worker who is at the other end where they are being produced who is going to keep their job. We also have to realize that when someone purchases that pickup truck or that car or that other piece of equipment, there is going to be a worker that is going to operate it as well. So really any incentive that is going to attract investment is going to help create jobs.

I would note that the 30 percent expensing provision that is in this legislation which means that a business would buy a personal computer, for example, and they would be able to deduct 30 percent of the purchase price of that asset in the first year. Currently

they have to, of course, depreciate a computer over 5 years. This is much more attractive. It will encourage business to purchase hardware.

I would also note, as my colleague from New Mexico pointed out, in the Economic Security and Recovery Act that the House of Representatives passed that we also provided for an increase in expensing for small business, which means that small business would have the opportunity to deduct 100 percent of the purchase of capital assets. Currently it is \$24,000. We increase that to \$35,000, a significant increase, to help small business, allowing them to deduct more from their taxable income, freeing up capital that they can then turn right around and invest in the creation of jobs.

When it comes to real estate, businesses are out there, they are working in real estate that employs the building trades, carpenters and plasterers and others. When they make improvements in their buildings, we call that buildout or tenant improvements, we change the depreciation schedule for that in this legislation as well. Currently it is 39 years, a ridiculous period of time. We reduce it to 15 years for inside buildout of a business.

The bottom line is we have accelerated cost recovery and we have expensing as well as depreciation reform in this legislation, 30 percent expensing. We increase the small business allowance up to \$35,000, and we reform how we depreciate inside improvements in buildings, providing jobs. That is the bottom line.

I would particularly note from the technology sector's perspective that in our legislation that the House passed 6 weeks ago, we also recognize there are companies losing money this year. These companies losing money are looking for capital so they can reinvest and, of course, create jobs and preserve the jobs of their workers today. Under our legislation, we allow a company that is losing money this year to carry back for 5 years. What that means is they can take this year's loss and credit against a previous profitable year sometime in the last 5 years, essentially get a tax refund, and they can use that money to reinvest in the creation of jobs. The accelerated cost recovery, the expensing and depreciation reform, helping companies that are losing money this year, is going to create jobs.

I would also note in the Economic Security and Recovery Act that we also help the middle class. We have to remember, the vast majority of Americans are middle class.

□ 1630

In the legislation we passed out of the House, the middle class tax rate is the 28 percent tax rate. That affects folks who make \$60,000 a year. That is average middle class in the district

that I represent in the south suburbs and South Side of Chicago. We lower their tax rate, which is currently 28 percent, effective immediately of January of 2002 we lower it to 25 percent that is going to lower taxes, giving more spending money to middle-class taxpayers.

We also want to help low income and working families too, those who probably never pay income taxes today and may not have benefitted directly and received a tax rebate this year from the President's tax cut that we all worked together to pass earlier this year. I would note that 24 million Americans will receive a \$300 dollar stimulus payment under the legislation we passed, extra spending money. I am one of those who believes that low income families when they receive that stimulus payment check, they are going to tax it and they are going to spend it. That is going to help the economy, creating jobs and demand for goods and services.

Now, one thing I noted as we discussed this economy, unfortunately, hundreds of thousands of Americans have lost their jobs, tens of thousands in the Chicago area that I represent. I would note that in the Economic Security and Recovery Act, legislation we passed 6 weeks ago in the House, that we provide help for those who are unemployed, and we provide help for those who may have lost their health insurance coverage. In fact, we provide \$12 billion in assistance for the unemployment benefits, as well as covering the cost of health care. So we put together a pretty good package.

I would note the Economic Security and Recovery Act, legislation that passed this House of Representatives with a bipartisan support, was passed by the House of Representatives 6 weeks ago. When you think about it, when Americans are in jeopardy of losing their jobs, I am one who believes that Congress needs to act very, very quickly and put on President Bush's desk legislation to get this economy moving again.

One of the most important reasons is not only to provide incentives to invest and give consumers more money to spend, but also to give the psychological confidence to business investors and consumers that it is okay to invest again, that it is okay to spend money on their family's needs, and that their job is not going to be in jeopardy.

So my hope is we can work things out with the Senate quickly and get on President Bush's desk as soon as possible legislation to revitalize and stimulate this economy. The bottom line is we want to provide economic security for all Americans. We want to protect those who have jobs, and those who recently lost their jobs, we want to give them the opportunity to go back to work and provide a safety net while they are out of work.

Mrs. WILSON. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Illinois, particularly for his expertise on what we need to do with respect to the economy.

There are two other areas of the economy where the House has taken very important action and we need to get a bill to the President's desk without any further delay. One is energy, and the other is Trade Promotion Authority, so that we can promote international trade. I would like to maybe take those in reverse order. The one we passed most recently was the Bipartisan Trade Promotion Authority Act which we passed last week.

Now, international trade is not something that people usually get excited about, unless it is your job that depends upon being able to sell American products abroad.

There are about 130 trade agreements that exist in the world internationally. America is party to only three of them. What that really means is that when we try to sell our products to Latin America or Asia or Europe, our companies are more heavily taxed than our competitors in Canada or Europe.

I have a little company in my district called SEMCO, and they make rock crushers. These are big barrels and drums that crush rock for the mining industry, to be able to get the minerals out of rock. It is not a very high-tech business. It is a family firm.

But I was talking last week to the owner, and he said, you know, they do not even bother to bid on jobs in Chile any more, because their competitors are Canadian and European countries, and Chile has a free trade agreement with them, and there is only a 2 percent duty on a crusher that is made in Europe or in Canada, a 2 percent tax if a Chilean mining company imports a piece of equipment. But for him, it is about 17 percent.

You cannot under sell somebody by 15 percent, 15 cents on the dollar, so he does not even bother bidding on those jobs any more. He employs maybe 30, 35, 40 people in his operation in Albuquerque, New Mexico. I would like to be able to see him building more rock crushers and selling them to mining operations, whether they are in Australia or Canada or Latin America or Chile.

But unless we give the President the authority to negotiate tough trade agreements that reduce the tariffs on American goods abroad, we do not have a fair shot, and neither does he. To me, that is part of what it will take to get our economy back to growing jobs, and that is what this is all about.

America now is disadvantaged. On any kind of fair playing field, American companies and American workers can beat the best. We are the most productive workers in the world. We have the best technology, we have well-trained workers, and we can compete head-to-head and we can win, but we

need a fair chance, and right now we do not have the fair chance.

Mr. WELLER. If the gentlewoman will yield, I absolutely agree with you. If you think about it, the globe's population, billions of people, 96 percent of the consumers on the Earth today live outside the borders of the United States. So if we want to increase the opportunity to find new markets for American farm products, for technology, for manufactured goods, for entertainment, we have to increase our access to international markets. Ninety six percent of the globe's population.

Trade Promotion Authority, it is kind of a funny name, but the bottom line is all it means is that we give President Bush the full negotiating power he needs to break down trade barriers. Without the full negotiating power, our trading partners and competitors and those who are trying to open up markets into their markets are not going to take us seriously, unless the Congress gives President Bush the full negotiating power that he needs.

I was so very, very pleased that we passed out of the House this past week with bipartisan support legislation giving President Bush what he needs. I think it is a shame there is almost 130 bilateral trade agreements, and bilateral means a trade agreement between two different countries; but out of 130 bilateral trade agreements, only about three involve the United States.

Something is wrong when the globe's greatest economy, our country, is unable to negotiate the kind of trade agreements we need to break down barriers and reduce tariff barriers and other barriers that stand in the way of markets for American manufactured goods, for farm products, for technology. That is why it is so very, very important to give the President what he needs, and that is the full negotiating power that Trade Promotion Authority gives to the President.

Mrs. WILSON. Our American farmers feed the world. In my State of New Mexico, most folks would not suspect this, but New Mexico is the tenth largest dairy producing State in the country. It is a very fast growing dairy industry. Of course, our cattle industry in the West has always been really strong. Our New Mexico cattleman, I was talking to a rancher, and he said we really want free trade, because most people outside the United States do not eat as much beef as people inside, and we want to introduce them to the wonders of beef.

There are things that we can do to promote trade, but we have to give trade authority to do it. As you can see by this chart here, the House has passed the economic stimulus bill. We did that on October 24. We have passed now bipartisan trade authority, which would give the President the power to

promote international trade and promote international business and get business for American companies abroad.

We also passed something way back actually the second of August, before the August break, the Energy Security Act. When we talk about jobs, we have lost 700,000 jobs in this country since the 11th of September. The estimates are that this energy bill, and this kind of just surprised me when I saw these two numbers, went back and looked at my notes from August, the estimate is it would create 700,000 jobs in domestic energy suppliers.

We are more dependent on foreign oil today than we were at the height of the energy crisis. Fifty-seven percent of oil is imported for America, mostly from the Middle East, a very volatile region of the world. Most folks do not know, but the number seven supplier of oil to the United States and the fastest growing supplier is Saddam Hussein's Iraq.

We need a balanced long-term energy policy that promotes both conservation and increases in production. We need a very diverse supply of energy. People get complacent. We all have gotten complacent a little bit here. The price of gasoline has gone done, the price of natural gas has gone down we have had a pretty mild winter so far, and maybe there is a sense of urgency that has left us. But the reality is we need an energy policy, and we need to reduce our reliance on oil coming from the Middle East. We should not be over a barrel begging Saddam Hussein to keep the oil spigot open. We need to be more independent.

The House passed by a very broad bipartisan vote the Energy Security Act on August 2. That should have been on the President's desk months ago. We need the first energy policy that we will have had in 20 years, and the House has passed it, and I would like to see the President be able to sign it.

I yield to my colleague from Illinois.

Mr. WELLER. I thank the gentlewoman for yielding. On energy, of course, the gentlewoman has been one of the leaders, particularly in research and development of new sources of energy and new sources of conservation, as well as helping our country be more independent of foreign sources of energy.

I remember one of the questions that I was asked shortly after the tragedy of the terrorist attack on America. Every day I was in my district I would visit a school and I would talk with students. One of the high school students at Wilmington High School, a high school junior, asked me a very good question. He says, "You know, Congressman, Americans have very short attention spans. Will we keep our attention and will we eventually lose interest in what occurred to our Nation on September 11?"

I said, "You know, young man, you have a very good question, and that is,

will America appreciate what complacency has cost us?"

Clearly what we were reminded on September 11 was the consequences, number one, of thinking it will never occur here, but also the consequences of being dependent on others in unstable areas of the world for sources of energy.

To me, I think there is something wrong when the policy of this country over the past decade has been to allow our Nation to be dependent on a majority of the oil that we use to power or our economy comes from outside the borders of the United States. Clearly, we in the Congress, I believe, have an obligation to improve the security of our country by reducing our dependence on imported energy, particularly oil.

I was proud to say that, earlier this year, and all the way back in July, now, think about that, in July we passed the Energy Security Act, legislation designed to make our country more energy independent, to emphasize conservation, to emphasize renewable sources of energy, and also to promote domestic sources of energy.

Well, think about it. How many months have passed since July? July, August, September, October, November, December. Six months have passed since we passed legislation which would provide for an opportunity to make our Nation more energy independent. Unfortunately, while the House has acted, we are still waiting for Congress to be able to send to the President legislation that brings about energy security.

I would note, not only do we provide for an opportunity to reduce our dependence on imported oil from the Middle East, but also we provide for an opportunity for investment in new technology, which will promote energy conservation.

One of the provisions in the legislation that we passed provides incentives for homeowners to make their homes more energy efficient, where they can receive up to a \$2,000 tax credit, up to 20 percent of the first \$10,000 they would spend if they better insulate their home or put in better, more energy efficient windows and more energy efficient heating or cooling for the house. And also for a home builder. A home builder who builds a new building, whether a condo or a stand-alone house, would also be able to receive that tax credit.

I was talking to a home builder in the area that I represent in the South Suburbs, a gentleman who has built thousands of homes in the Mokena-Frankfort-New Lennox, the Lincoln Way area we call it, just east of Joliet. He said in the last 2 years he has built about 1,000 homes, but only about a dozen of his customers, those who purchased new houses, brand new houses from this home builder, said they

wanted an energy efficient house. People were more willing to invest a little extra money in the kitchen or bathroom, something they can see, than into making their house more energy efficient.

But he also said when there is an incentive to help recover the cost of making that investment, those consumers are much more inclined to invest in energy efficient improvements to their existing house or to purchase a home which has more energy efficient technology in place.

That is one of the most basic centerpieces of the legislation we passed. While the House has done its job on energy, while the House has done its job on trade opportunities, while the House has done its job on revitalizing this economy, we are still waiting for the other body.

My hope is we can work together soon, within the next few days, and put together a bipartisan agreement. We all know it is in the best interests of our Nation to get this economy moving again, because far too many Americans have lost their jobs. 700,000 Americans are now unemployed, and we have yet to put on the President's desk legislation to help revitalize this economy. Something is wrong.

□ 1645

President Bush has asked us to send him a stimulus package, what we call an economic security package, to help create new jobs, protect jobs, give those that are currently out of work an opportunity to go back to work. I think it is wrong that this Congress has not completed its work, but I am proud to say the House has been doing its job. In July we passed energy security. Six, 7 weeks ago, in early November, we passed economic security. This past week we provided for greater trade opportunity. We need to work together, and I hope the other body and the House can find a way to get this job done in the next few days.

Mrs. WILSON. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Illinois. When I started out, I talked about how we had worked together to finish the education reform bill and what a tremendous achievement that is and how it will make a wonderful difference for our communities and our families and our children over the next couple of decades. It is a landmark piece of legislation. It showed that if we focus on something, with the leadership of the President and the determination of the House, that we can get things done. But there are things on the economy and jobs that we also need to get done.

We have worked cooperatively with the President and with the entire Congress to get things done with respect to the war on terrorism, and that war is going very well, although we always must expect that there will be bad days and there will be good days. But there

is something else we need to focus on, and it cannot be put to the back burner. It has to be put front and center, and that is growing jobs.

The House has passed the economic stimulus bill. We passed it on October 24. We may actually pass another economic stimulus bill. It is almost as if we are pleading to get something done so we can get it to the President and get back to growing jobs. We have passed Bipartisan Trade Promotion Authority so that we can export more and grow our businesses at home so we can sell products abroad. We passed 6 months ago the Energy Security Act, which also would create jobs, probably 700,000 jobs in the energy sector. We have done things with farm security, and things are really hurting in the agriculture industry, and the House has passed a farm bill. Even back in June, in mid-June we passed an Invest for Fee Relief Act.

Most folks do not even know it, but when one trades a stock in an IRA or in a 401(k) or just in a stock account that one might have with T. Rowe Price or whomever, there is a few pennies or actually less than a penny on each transaction that goes to pay for the Securities and Exchange Commission. That rate was set when we were not doing so much stock trading and there were, instead of 100 million investors in America trading on line, there were really only a little more than a million, maybe 10 million investors and they were mostly large stockbrokers. We do not need that much money coming from all of these little trades. What this bill does, it just says, let us just have the amount of money taken off the trade that one needs to fund the SEC. That is what it was intended to do.

Six months ago we passed that legislation. It is a simple little bill. But if we watch the values of our stock portfolio go down, the IRA or 401(k), it kind of hurts that we are not acting faster and it feels as though we are throwing things over the net, and there is nobody there.

I yield to the gentleman from Illinois before we wrap up this hour.

Mr. WELLER. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the gentlewoman from New Mexico for her leadership and setting aside this hour to talk about what the House has done. We have been hard at work over the last 12 months working to bring about change, but also working to bring about security to the average American, for our communities and for our country. We have supported the President in the war against terrorism, giving him the full war powers that he has asked for. We provided for \$40 billion in emergency funds and we have helped our aviation sector and stabilized that after it was literally shut down for days, which cost the aviation sector billions of dollars.

But we have also worked to respond to other situations that have occurred

since the terrorist attack on September 11. The bottom line is, we have to get this economy moving again. That is why the points that the gentlewoman has made are so important, when she referred to in July when the House passed energy independence and energy security legislation to reduce our dependence on imported energy.

It was in October when the House passed and sent to the other body legislation which would stimulate this economy, reward investment and the creation of jobs, help displaced workers with unemployment benefits as well as health care benefits, give extra spending money to consumers. It was in November when the House passed the Farm Security Act, legislation to help our farm economy. Again, the House has been doing its job.

It was just this past week that the House moved in a bipartisan way to give the President the full negotiating power he needs to reduce trade and tariff barriers that stand in the way of American manufactured goods as well as farm products that we produce here on our soils. Mr. Speaker, 96 percent of the Earth's population lives outside of our borders. There is a tremendous amount of market, a tremendous amount of opportunity to move goods from the United States out of our work places and manufacturing places and our farms on to the tables of those who are hungry overseas, not only for our food, but for our goods and services.

The bottom line is, we have worked hard in this House. We have been on schedule. Energy in the summer, passed energy security legislation, we have given the President full trade negotiating powers, we have worked to stimulate this economy. Unfortunately, it takes 2 Houses to get the job done. My hope is that in the next few days that the other body will come together with the House and that we can work together to stimulate the economy and to help bring greater security to our country.

I want to thank the gentlewoman for her leadership and this Special Order.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. PLATTS). The Chair is required under the House rules to remind Members that it is not in order to characterize action or inaction by the other Chamber, and would ask Members to comply with that rule.

Mrs. WILSON. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Illinois for coming down here and joining me this evening. I also wanted to commend him for his leadership in the Committee on Ways and Means, not only on issues of economic stimulus and the committee and the gentleman have done a grade job, but on trade promotion, and particularly the things that affect our high-tech economy where the good-paying jobs are and we want those good paying jobs to be in America, and I want to

thank the gentleman for all the hard work that he has done this year.

Today, the Congress had a tremendous success. We passed an education bill which is now on its way to the President that will implement his idea and his passion, that no child will be left behind in America. We have given the President legislation and money to fight the war on terrorism. The people who attacked America on September 11 underestimated the resolve of this Congress, this President, and this country. We will find those responsible, we will root them out, and we will destroy them. We are united in that resolve.

The House of Representatives has passed numerous measures to stimulate this economy. We have passed an energy bill that would give us 700,000 new jobs. We have passed an economic stimulus bill that would reduce the tax rates on middle-class Americans, put money in consumer pockets, and let small businesses invest and create jobs and restore confidence to our capital markets. We need to move forward and grow jobs in this country. Mr. Speaker, 700,000 Americans lost their jobs since September 11. We are in a terrorist-induced recession. Now is the time to act and get back to growing jobs.

IMMIGRATION REFORM AND CONTROL AND THE SECURITY OF OUR BORDERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2001, the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. TANCREDO) is recognized for 60 minutes.

Mr. TANCREDO. Mr. Speaker, although I can certainly agree with many of the comments of the previous speakers with regard to what this Congress has accomplished to date, there is an issue, of course, that I must bring to the attention of the Congress, of my colleagues, and the Speaker, that has not been dealt with. It is almost incredible to stand here and say this in light of everything that has happened since September 11. We have, indeed, prosecuted a war against the perpetrators of the September 11 tragedy, and we have prosecuted it successfully. I am immensely grateful to the President of the United States for his efforts to bring these people to justice. In many ways, I am pleased with what the Congress of the United States has done in efforts, as has been stated earlier, at least on the House side, in terms of enhancing the economic viability of the Nation, passing a stimulus package, and the rest.

However, while we focus on issues like those that have been described here, having just passed a massive education bill earlier this afternoon, we have abandoned, we have refused to deal with one of the most important, one of the most significant and uniquely Federal responsibilities given to us